

VISIT...

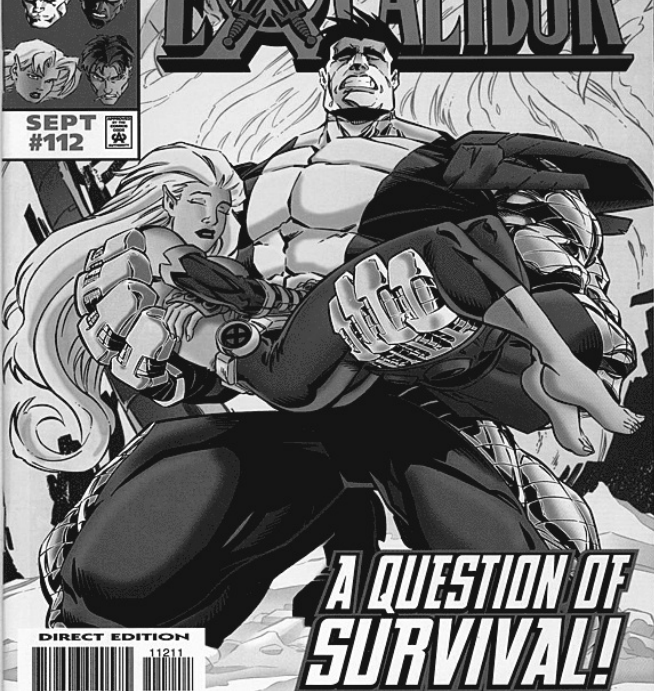
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EXCALIBUR

SEPT
#112



**A QUESTION OF
SURVIVAL!**

DIRECT EDITION



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RAAB WOODS KOBLISH



United to preserve the dream of Professor Charles Xavier, they have sought to extend the message of the X-Men beyond the shores of America. Operating out of their headquarters on Muir Island in Scotland, they've sworn to defend mutantkind from a world that both hates and fears them, for they are... EXCALIBUR!

**NIGHTCRAWLER**

Born with the mutant ability to teleport short distances, stick to walls and ceilings, and turn virtually invisible when in deep shadows, the German-born Kurt Wagner is the blue-skinned leader of Excalibur.

**S H A D O W C A T**

American-born Kitty Pryde has the mutant ability to turn her body intangible and walk on air with but a thought. Trained in the ways of the Samurai and the ninja, Shadowcat's physical prowess is balanced by her brilliant mind and her formal X-Men training.

**C O L O S S U S**

The Russian mutant born Piotr Rasputin is the powerhouse of Excalibur. His artistic heart is masked by his cold, hard exterior, as Colossus has the ability to transform his flesh and blood into a form of impervious organic steel!

**W O L F S B A N E**

Rahne Sinclair is the youngest member of Excalibur, but her mutant ability to transform from a shy young woman to a human/wolf hybrid and to a complete wolf makes her a force to be reckoned with!

**M E G G A N**

Linked to the elemental forces of Great Britain as a faerie, the enigmatic but naive Meggan has the ability to change her physical form at will, as well as the power to shape the very forces of nature to fit her needs.

**P E T E W I S D O M**

A former intelligence operative with the mutant ability to generate "hot knives", Boyfriend to Kitty Pryde, he remains a reluctant member of Excalibur.

**M O I R A M a c T A G G E R T**

Head of the Mutant Research Center on Muir Island, Moira has recently devoted her research to finding a cure for the mutant-killing Legacy Virus. As if this wasn't enough for her to deal with, Moira also bears the burden of being the first human to contract the deadly disease.

**D O U G L O C K**

Although his body is comprised of Phalanx physiology, Douglock is not a member of that alien race. Though his resemblance to the deceased Douglas Ramsay is not a coincidence, Douglock's quest for humanity and the truth about who he is continues to elude him.



PREVIOUSLY
IN...

EXCALIBUR

While in Hong Kong, Pete Wisdom discovered information related to secrets from his past, leading him and Nightcrawler to head for Germany.



Meanwhile, Colossus and Meggan headed to France for some rest and relaxation, only to discover that their pilot was a suicidal assassin.



With only seconds to spare, Colossus and Meggan had almost no time to react as their plane exploded, which brings the duo to their current predicament...

IF A BURNING PLANE
CRASHES IN A
REMOTE EXpanse OF
THE SWISS ALPS...

...AND NO ONE IS
AROUND TO HEAR
ITS VIOLENT IMPACT
UPON THE JAGGED
MOUNTAINSIDE...

...WILL ITS
PASSENGERS
BE ANY LESS
DEAD?



Stan
Lee
EXCALIBUR

SURVIVAL

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RAAB
writer

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WOODS
penciler

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KOBISH
inker

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NOT IF ONE
OF THOSE
PASSENGERS
HAPPENS TO
BE PIOTR
NIKOLIEVITCH
RASPUTIN...

...THE MUTANT
CALLED
COLOSSUS!

BY
THE WHITE
WOLF --

JUGGA
JUGGA
JUGGA
JUGGA
JUGGA
JUGGA
JUGGA
JUGGA

-- I
WILL ELEVATE
THIS PLANE!

THE MAINSTAY OF
THOSE INTERNATIONAL
HEROES KNOWN AS

EXTRAORDINARY

...HIS SUPERHUMAN
STRENGTH AND ORGANIC
STEEL HIDE PROTECTED
HIM FROM A DEVASTATING
EXPLOSION TRIGGERED
BY THE JET'S SUICIDAL
PILOT.

NOW, THOSE QUALITIES
MAY BE ALL THAT STAND
BETWEEN HIS SURVIVAL...

...AND THE LIFE OF
HIS ELFIN TERMATE,
MEGGAN!

PIOTR! WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

THANKS
TO OUR PILOT,
WE ARE ON A
COLLISION COURSE
WITH THE NEAREST
MOUNTAIN!

I
AM TRYING
TO LAND US
SAFELY!

OH,
I CAN DO
THAT!
I'LL
WHIP UP A
WIND TO SLOW
OUR DESCENT AND
CUSHION OUR
FALL!

IF YOU ARE
GOING TO USE YOUR
ELEMENTAL POWERS,
TOVARISCH --

-- I
SUGGEST YOU
DO SO POST
HASTE!

TIME
AND GRAVITY
ARE NOT ON
OUR SIDE!

RIGHTY-O!

COMMUNICATING
WITH THE
MOLECULES OF
THE AIR IN A
LANGUAGE
UNSPOKEN
BY HUMAN LIPS...

...MEGGAN ROUSES
A GALE FORCE BLAST
BENEATH THE SHIP.



MEANWHILE, IN THE
BUSTLING CITY OF
HAMBURG, GERMANY...

...AT THE ULTRA-CHIC
RATSKELLER CLUB,
THE BEAT IS HOT...

...THE
DANCERS
HOTTER...

...AND THE SHADOWY,
SIN-FILLED CORNERS
MAKE THE IDEAL
SPOTS FOR A PERSON
TO HIDE.

CASE IN POINT... DEUTSCHLAND
NATIVE, KURT WAGNER,
A.K.A. THE SWASHBUCLING
NIGHTCRAWLER!

GOOD THING MY FEATURES
BLEND INTO THE SHADOWS,
OR ELSE OUR "COVER" MIGHT
BE BLOWN, ESPECIALLY SINCE
I DON'T FEEL LIKE USING AN
IMAGE INDUCER
TONIGHT.

NOT THAT I
QUITE UNDERSTAND
WHY HERR WISDOM
WAS SO DESPERATE
TO COME
HERE.

I WAS
HOPING TO
RETURN TO MY
BAVARIAN FOREST
HOME, AND FIND
OUT WHY MY GIRL-
FRIEND, AMANDA
SEPTON...

... JUST
UP AND LEFT ME
WITHOUT SAYING
GOOD-BYE. •

HOW
I MISS
HER...

• SHE "DISAPPEARED"
IN AUGUST 1980
1. PART

LEMME
GUESS, STILL
PININ' OVER THE
SORCERESS --
ER, WAGNER?

LOOK,
NOT THAT SHE
WASN'T A BIT O'
ALRIGHT

-- BUT
THERE ARE
PLENTY O' OTHER
BIRDS IN THE
BUSH, YA ASK
ME.



PRECISELY WHY
I DIDN'T ASK,
PETER.

SO,
WHERE
IS YOUR
"MAN"?



SEE THAT WEASELY
GIT IN THE CORNER
WITH THE PAIR
O' "SLICK
SALLIES"?

JR, HE
EXPECTING
YOU?

NOPE.
FAR AS HE
KNOWS, I'M A
"GHOST" --



"-- AND HE'S IN
FOR THE FRIGHT
O' HIS LIFE!"

DID I
EVER TELL
YOU HOW I SINGLE-
HANDEDLY TRASHED
A CADRE OF HAND
ASSASSINS,
LIEBCHEN...?

Ooh!
BITTE -- DO
TELL US, MEIN
HERR!

JR! SOUNDS
DANGEROUS!

AH,
BUT IT WAS!
THERE I STOOD --
SURROUNDED
WITH NO PLACE
TO RUN!

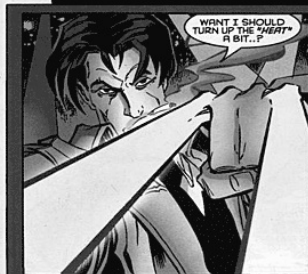
SO
I RAISED
MY GUARD LIKE
THE EXPERT
PUGILIST I WAS
TRAINED TO BE,
AND --



-HEY!

YANK

WAS IST
DAS?





DANKE
F'R NOTHING,
GOETHE. YER
AS USELESS
AS EVER.

PERHAPS...
BUT I WOULD
WATCH MEIN BACK
IF I WERE YOU,
WISDOM.

ODDS
ARE, YOU
AND YOUR NEW-
FOUND "FRIENDS"
ARE ZEIR NEXT
TARGETS.

BRING 'EM
ON, THEN. I'LL
BE READY.



AND I'LL BE
ALONE...

MY
MY MY --
HOW VERY
WOLVERINE
OF YOU.

WAS IT AS
INFORMATIVE
AS YOU'D
HOPED?

AIN' THEN
SOME.



GOETHE MAY BE
SPINELESS, BUT HIS
INFO'S USUALLY ON
THE MONEY.

AIN'
WHILE I GOT
ME SUSPICIONS AS
T' THE CULPRIT'S
IDENTITY --

-- I
WANNA
EXPLORE ALL
THE POSSIBILITIES
FORE I START
HUNTIN' 'EM
DOWN.

'CUZ IF
SHE THINKS
THEY CAN GO
GUNNIN' FOR ME
FRIENDS AND GET
AWAY SCOT
FREE --

-- SHE'S
GOT ANOTHER
THINK COMIN'!

THE ALPS...
LATER THAT
NIGHT...

... WHERE THE ALREADY
SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURE
CONTINUES TO DROP...

... AND OUR HEROES'
STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL
BECOMES EXPONENTIALLY
MORE DESPERATE!

UHHH...

M-M-MUST HAVE...
REVERTED TO... H-H-HUMAN
FORM... WHEN I F-F-FELL
UNC-C-CONSCIOUS.

BBBBB! THAT'S BETTER --
MY ARMORED FORM SHOULD
PROTECT ME FROM THESE
HARSH ELEMENTS.

BUT
WHAT OF
MEGGAN?

ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT,
LITTLE
ONE?

MEG...?
CAN YOU
HEAR ME?

NYET!
MEGGAN!



SHE IS SO STILL...
BUT AT LEAST SHE IS BREATHING. THAT IS A GOOD SIGN.



HERE, MEGGAN --



-- THIS BLANKET SHOULD KEEP YOU WARM.

POWERFUL...
M-M-MYSTICAL
FORCE... ATTACKING...
REPULSING...
M-M-ME...



KNIGHTS
ASCENDANT...
INTO BATTLE.
G-G-GLORIOUS...
AND TERRIBLE...
... T-T-TOWER...
TO THE...
NORTHEAST...



WUIR ISLAND.

A DIVISION OF THE
XAVIER INSTITUTE,
THIS IS THE WORLD'S
FOREMOST CENTER
FOR GENETIC
RESEARCH.

LOCATED ON A SECLUDED
LAND MASS OFF THE COAST
OF CAPE WRATH, SCOTLAND,
IT ALSO SERVES AS
EXCALIBUR'S HEADQUARTERS.

BUT TO THE TEAM'S
YOUNGEST MEMBER,
RAHNE SINCLAIR ---
THE GIRL KNOWN AS
WOLFSBANE---

... THIS HAS, FOR
MOST OF HER LIFE,
BEEN HOME.

A HOME THAT HAS,
OF LATE, BEEN CAST
IN THE SHADOW OF A
DARK AND LOOMING
CLOUD...

SO MUCH HAS
CHANGED SINCE
LADY MOURA FELL
ILL.

I'M
TRYIN' SO
HARD TAE BE
STRONG FOR
HER, BUT ---

RAHNE --- / HEY,
RAHNE! CHECK THIS
OUT! I'M FINALLY
GONNA SAVE THE
PRINCESS!

THAT'S...

... WAAAY...

... COO...!!!

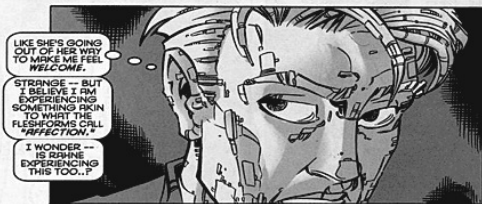
... DOUGLOCK!

HEY ---
YUIR FACE
IS ALL FLESHY!
WHAT'S UP WITH
THE IMAGE
INDUCER?

SKETCH
SKETCH

WELL, I WANTED
TO GET USED TO
WEARING IT
IN PUBLIC...

... SO I DECIDED
TO START WEARING
IT AROUND THE
HOUSE.









THE ALPS...
MERE HOURS
BEFORE SUNRISE...

WILL THIS
STORM NEVER
CEASE?

BAD
ENOUGH
THAT I CANNOT
SEE IF WE ARE
ANY CLOSER
TO THAT
TOWER --

-- BUT I
FEAR MEGGAN
IS SUFFERING
FROM FROST-
BITE!

WHAT-
EVER FORCE
ASSAULTED HER
ON THE JET MUST
STILL BE INHIBITING
HER POWERS. IT'S
AS IF THE LAND
ITSELF WERE
A THING OF
MAGIC.



PERHAPS SHE'LL
NOT SUCCLUMB SO
QUICKLY IF I TALK
TO HER -- KEEP
HER MIND
ALIVE...

MEGGAN..?
IT IS J. PIOTR --
CAN YOU HEAR
ME?

P-P-PIOTR..?
I C-C-CAN'T
FEEL M-M-MY
F-F-FEET!



I-I'M F-F-FRIGHTENED.
ARE... W-W-WE GONNA...
D-D-DIE?



DO NOT GIVE UP
HOPE YET, LITTLE
ONE.

SO LONG
AS MY LUNGS
STILL DRAW
BREATH --

-- AND
MY LIMBS POSSESS
STRENGTH TO PRESS
ONWARD --

-- WE WILL
SURVIVE!



THE DOCUMENTA
ARTS ARCHIVES...
KASSEL, GERMANY.

IF I
KNOW THAT
GIRL AS WELL
AS I USED
TO --

-- SHE'S
LIKELY TUCKED
AWAY IN THE
BASEMENT O'
ONE O' THESE
MUSEUMS.

JUST GOTTA
FIND OUT WHICH
ONE...

... ALMOST FEEL SORRY
FOR LEAVING WAGNER
BEHIND, BUT I GOT NO
TIME F'R ANY "YAY TEAM"
HULLABALOO.

THIS MISSION
IS STRICTLY A
SOLO --

GOING SOMEWHERE,
MEINE FREUND?

KEEP
YER BLOODY
VOYE DOWN, F'R
CRICKETY-
SAKES!

DO
FORGIVE ME
FOR CRASHING
THIS CLEARLY PRIVATE
PARTY, PETER --



-- BUT YOU'RE NOT
HERE TO ADMIRE
FINE ART, ARE
YOU?

TOO
LATE, HERE
WISDOM. SO LONG
AS WE'RE TERM-
MATES --

-- I AM
INVOLVED.

WALK
AWAY FROM THIS
ONE, 'CRAWLER --
YOU DON'T WANT
TO GET INVOLVED.

HOW'D
I KNOW
Y'TD SAY
THAT?

LOOK,
WHY DON'TCHA
JUST 'BAMP' BACK
T' THE HOTEL AN'
GET YERSELF A
GOOD NIGHT'S
SLEEP.

DON'T
WANNA BE
TOO TIRED FR
YER TRIP T' THE OL'
CIRCUS IN THE
MORNIN'!



OH,
I'M NOT
GOING ANY-
WHERE,
NOW.

YOUR
ANTICS HAVE GOT
MY UNDIVIDED
ATTENTION.

BLOODY
ECK.

SKRITCH
SKRITCH

IT ALL
STARTED WITH
AN E-MAIL FROM AN
"OLD FRIEND" I'D
HOPE I'D NEVER
HEAR FROM
AGAIN.

Darling Peter --
Long have I thought about those sultry
days and endless, blissful nights we spent
together in Peckham... And despite even my
better judgement, I find myself longing
for them once more.

Til we meet again...
...Soon.

MY
CONTACT
IN BRITISH
INTELLIGENCE --
MY BEST FRIEND IN THE
WORLD, ACTUALLY --
UNEARTHED SOME
NASTY LIL'
SECRET ABOUT
HER --

-- AND
PAID FOR
IT WITH HIS
LIFE. *

AS SEEN
LAST ISSUE.

SO, WHAT BRINGS
ME OUT IN THIS RUDDY
DOWNPOUR IN THE
MIDDLE O' THE
NIGHT?

BLOOD.

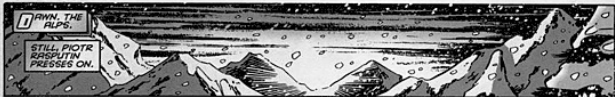
A PITY
THE ONLY BLOOD
GONNA BE SPILLED
TONIGHT, "DARLING
PETER" --

WASP

NO!

-- IS
YOURS!

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM



DOWN THE ALPS.

STILL PIOTR
RASPUTIN
PASSES ON.



THIS LONG NIGHT'S JOURNEY INTO
MORNING HAS TAKEN HIM MORE
THAN ANY HE HAS WALKED BEFORE...

...BUT STILL HE
PASSES ON.

COUNTLESS FOOTFALLS THROUGH
WAIST-DEEP SNOW BEHIND HIM,
HIS ACHING MUSCLES TEAR AND
RIP WITH EVERY STEP HE TAKES...

...AND STILL HE
PASSES ON.



MEGGAN,
PLEASE...

...FORGIVE...

DRIVEN PAST THE POINT
OF EXHAUSTION, HIS WILL
POISED TO BREAK LIKE
THE FRAGILE ICICLES
GATHERED ON HIS BROW...

...YET EVEN FURTHER,
STILL, FOR THE FADING
LIFE OF THE FRIEND HE
HOLDS IN HIS ARMED
HANDS...



...THIS COLOSSUS
OF A MAN...

...PRESSES...

...ON!

...ME..P

THUD

FOR HIS SEEMINGLY
INTERMINABLE QUEST
FOR SURVIVAL HAS
FINALLY COME TO
AN END...

**BOOHE
MO!**





...AND SALVATION
IS AT LAST IN SIGHT!

**NEXT
ISSUE**

WHERE THE
HECK ARE:

**COLOSSUS
& MEGGAN?**

WE
JUST MIGHT SHOW
WHAT HAPPENED TO:

**AND IF YER
LUCKY**

**NIGHTCRAWLER
& PETE WISDOM!**

COME BACK IN 30 DAYS TO FIND OUT!